

Washingtonville, New York. It was a great opportunity to speak with small business owners about the current economic climate that has affected them.

Their message was consistent and needs to be heard. Small businesses are struggling. It is critical that we give small businesses every opportunity to succeed, which is why I joined with Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY to urge the extension of an immediate tax break for newly purchased business equipment. Extending this tax break will provide immediate relief for businesses that purchase depreciable property such as equipment, vehicles, furniture, machinery, buildings, and other items.

Our small businesses need every break they can get these days. They are the engine that drives our economy and creates jobs. This tax break helps small businesses and stimulates the local economy. We cannot afford to let it expire.

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#### PUT CONGRESS BACK TO WORK

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you take a hard look at the economic challenges facing our country. Across the United States, unemployment is at a 26-year high, 10.2 percent, and more than 2.8 million jobs have been lost since the \$1 trillion stimulus was signed into law last February without a single Republican vote in this House.

In my home State of Georgia, eight out of the nine counties in my district have unemployment rates of 10 percent, and two counties are over 13 percent. Put simply, Mr. Speaker, my constituency needs jobs, and they need them now.

Yet the Democratic plans on the economy, on health care, and on energy do the exact opposite. These plans raise taxes, and they sacrifice even more jobs. This is not the way to stimulate our economy and not the way to help my constituents.

We need real solutions that will require tough choices in Washington. They involve tax relief for working Americans, and Republicans stand ready to work with you on that.

#### HELP THE DAIRY FARMERS

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to alert my colleagues to a piece of legislation that I have introduced to assist our dairy farmers across the country in their critical time of need. Dairy farmers across my upstate New York district have come to me and asked for help.

They have always been there to provide food for us as consumers, and now it is time for us to help them continue the long tradition of family-owned and operated dairy farms that are passed from generation to generation.

My bill is inspired by a piece of legislation introduced in the New York State Senate by Senator Darrel Aubertine and would reduce hauling costs passed on to dairy farmers by processors and milk haulers. The bill eliminates hauling costs for milk producers and clarifies that the ownership of the milk is transferred from the milk producers to the milk plant when it leaves the farm and is mixed with the other farmers' milk.

The bill also makes it unlawful for processors to charge a producer any cost incurred in the process of picking up the milk and delivering it to a milk plant receiving station or transfer station.

The time to act for our dairy farmers is now.

#### NEW AFGHANISTAN POLICY

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a 29-year Air Force veteran and prisoner of war for nearly 7 years, I know what happens when you try to run a war from the White House: you lose. Winning the war in Afghanistan, defeating al Qaeda, is vital to the safety of our Nation. To quote the President, "If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al Qaeda would plot to kill more Americans."

So let's listen to the military leadership in Afghanistan. Setting a timeline to end military engagement is not the way to win a war. Instead, it empowers our enemies and sends a wrong message to our troops, our allies, and the American people. We need to listen to the experts on the ground instead of the politicians who are thousands of miles away from the front. We need to stop talking about exit strategies and troop withdrawal and focus on giving our troops the resources they want, need, and deserve.

Let's eliminate the rules and fight to win.

#### ETHICS REFORM

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Louis Brandeis said sunlight is the best disinfectant. So with ethics once more in the headlines, I think it's worth asking how far we've come in bringing light to the people's House.

This is not a partisan issue. Corruption votes both ways. It is, rather, an issue of trust. These teams, more than ever, demand effective government, yet it is very hard to govern effectively

without the public's trust. We need to complete the active ethics investigations currently being considered in this House, and we need to eliminate the conditions which contributed to these violations in the first place.

I've introduced two measures to eliminate pay-to-play activities at both the State and Federal level. H.R. 614 would prohibit earmarks to for-profit entities, and H.R. 3427 would eliminate Federal provisions which prevent States like Illinois from cleaning up their act on pay-to-play corruption.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting both of these measures.

#### AFGHANISTAN PLAN

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I commend the President for finally making the right decision to send additional combat troops to Afghanistan. However, I have deep concerns with the President's insistence on a hard July 2011 deadline for withdrawal.

The President seeks to send our troops into battle while at the same time notifying our enemies of when they will be coming home. And to confuse matters more, the President also spoke of making decisions based on conditions on the ground.

So which is it, a withdrawal on a date certain, or based on the conditions on the ground?

The President offers many what-ifs but very few answers. Our Nation's troops have fought admirably in dangerous conditions to turn the tide against those who attacked our Nation on September 11. The President cannot have it both ways, and I urge him to focus this new strategy on victory and not withdrawal.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PARSONS CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Parsons Child and Family Center for immaculate community services that they provide for the needs of children and families in the capital region of upstate New York, which I represent.

Parsons was founded some 180 years ago and has become one of the largest human service agencies in upstate New York. Its contributions to the 9,000 children and families it serves include counseling services, parenting education, child abuse prevention and treatment, and mental services.

While there is no typical child served by Parsons, most have endured a significant traumatic event in their lives. The highly trained staff at Parsons